I claim:

1. A method for remapping packet priority in a data communication switch having a plurality of ports, comprising:

receiving a packet including a first priority value on a first port;

5   determining a virtual trunk value based on a plurality of values;

determining a second priority value based on the first priority value and the virtual trunk value; and

transmitting the packet including the second priority value on a second port.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of values includes an identifier of the first port.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of values includes a VLAN identifier.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the VLAN identifier is included in the packet as received.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first priority value is included in the packet as received.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the second priority value is included in the packet as transmitted.

20   7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining the virtual trunk value includes reducing the plurality of values to a smaller-bit value and using the smaller-bit value in a table look-up.

8. A method for remapping packet priority in a data communication switch having a plurality of ports, comprising:

receiving a packet including a first priority value on a first port;

determining a second priority value based on the first priority value and a plurality of other values including an identifier of the first port; and

transmitting the packet including the second priority value on a second port.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of other values further includes a VLAN identifier.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the VLAN identifier is included in the packet as received.

11. The method according to claim 8, wherein the first priority value is included in the packet as received.

12. The method according to claim 8, wherein the second priority value is included in the packet as transmitted.

13. A network interface for a data communication switch, comprising:

an access controller having a port for receiving a packet including a first priority value; and

a switching engine coupled to the access controller for receiving the packet from the access controller, for transmitting a plurality of values to a first element in response to the packet, for receiving a virtual trunk identifier from the first element in response to the plurality of values, for transmitting the virtual trunk identifier and the first priority value to a

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second element, for receiving a second priority value from the second element in response to the virtual trunk identifier and the first priority value and for transmitting the packet including the second priority value.

14. The network interface according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of values includes an identifier of the port.

15. The network interface according to claim 13, wherein the packet as received at the access controller includes a VLAN identifier.

16. The network interface according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of values includes the VLAN identifier.

17. A network interface for a data communication switch, comprising:

an access controller having a port for receiving a packet including a first priority value and a VLAN identifier; and

a switching engine coupled to the access controller for receiving the packet from the access controller, for consulting a plurality of databases to resolve a second priority value from a plurality of values including an identifier of the port, the VLAN identifier and the first priority value and for transmitting the packet including the second priority value.